

of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL GEORGE W. CASEY, JR.

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my Army Caucus co-chair, the senior Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. JIM INHOFE, I rise today to recognize one of our country's finest soldiers. GEN George W. Casey, Jr., the 36th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, is retiring after over 40 years of distinguished service to our Nation. General Casey has led soldiers at every level from platoon to division and all the way to chief, continuing the tradition of service begun by his father, MG George W. Casey, Sr., Commander, 1st Cavalry Division, killed in a helicopter crash on July 7, 1970, while visiting his troops during his assignment in Vietnam.

Later in 1970, General Casey earned his commission as a second lieutenant through Georgetown University's Reserve Officer Training Corps and began his service to our Nation as an infantry officer. While serving in Germany, he excelled as a platoon leader and was selected to attend Ranger School and Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Fort Benning, GA, in 1974. Over the next 12 years, General Casey was assigned to units within the 4th Infantry Division, Mechanized, Fort Carson, CO. These postings culminated in his promotion to lieutenant colonel, serving as Commander, 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry in 1985.

In 1991, then-Colonel Casey continued his career with the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. His success led to an Army fellowship and congressional liaison assignments in the Washington, DC area. Colonel Casey then returned to Europe as the Chief of Staff, V Corps, United States Army Europe. When forces were ordered into Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Endeavor, Colonel Casey deployed to Tazsar, Hungary, as part of USAREUR Forward. Later, leading the 1st Armored Division as Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver, he oversaw the peaceful resettlement of Bosnian villages throughout the Multi-National Division-North MND(N) area of operations. He also oversaw the security of the first free elections on September 14, 1996, as mandated by the Dayton Peace Accord.

Over the next 10 years General Casey would make historic and lasting impacts as a leader at the highest levels of the Army. From 2001 until 2003, as the Director, Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5) to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Casey was a key figure in the crisis action planning

to prosecute the global war on terror. In this position, General Casey was responsible for advising National, Defense, Joint and Army senior leadership about strategic issues and joint capabilities, requirements and resources. Later, his participation in Department of Defense and interagency affairs helped shape concepts that defined the future conduct of joint training and operations. The results of his efforts are visible today in the ongoing transformation of the American military into a more lethal, flexible, and responsive Joint force.

In 2003, as Director of the Joint Staff, General Casey's uncompromising support of our nation's deployed forces contributed to successful operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Horn of Africa, the Philippines, and elsewhere around the world. During this period of changing global conditions and evolving challenges to the security of the United States, General Casey led the Joint Staff with unparalleled professional leadership and expertise. His participation in the national security decisionmaking process directly enhanced the security and welfare of the Nation.

As the 30th Vice Chief of Staff of the Army from 2003 until 2004, General Casey employed his outstanding leadership and management skills to assist the Chief of Staff in supporting the Nation's war on terror and put the Army on course for one of the most profound transformations in their history. Recognizing the soldier as the centerpiece of the Army as well as the need to sustain the all-volunteer force that was stressed and strained by conflict, General Casey aggressively worked to care for soldiers and their families, ensuring the forces' success throughout the world. His legacy as the Vice Chief of Staff is an Army postured to meet the challenges of the 21st century as a result of his superior ability to lead in a period of war and profound transition.

As the Commanding General of Multi-National Force-Iraq from 2004 until 2007 during Operation Iraqi Freedom, General Casey's leadership of a 32-nation coalition, in coordination with its Iraqi partners, developed and implemented the actions that eliminated numerous terrorist safe havens. This began the rollback of insurgent gains throughout the country, setting the conditions for Iraq's first free national elections after 30 years of tyranny. Later, through the implementation of a vigorous counterinsurgency and counterterrorism campaign, he established a level of stability and security which allowed infrastructure reconstruction activities in Iraq to quadruple.

Following his service in Iraq, General Casey was selected to serve as the 36th Chief of Staff of the Army in 2007. He synchronized the continuous generation and deployment of combat power to meet requirements of two ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and multiple operations around the world. A

strategic leader for our Army, and our Nation, he has personally led the transformation of the Army to meet the security challenges of the 21st century and restore balance to the force to set the conditions for continued success in the second decade of this era of persistent conflict. These innovative changes enabled Army forces to execute wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as successfully implement multiple humanitarian missions around the globe.

When history looks back at the decades of service by the 36th Chief of Staff of the Army, it will be clear that he embodied the highest ideals of the American military professional. Our Nation owes General Casey, his wife Sheila, and their family its sincere appreciation for his truly extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States throughout his distinguished career in the U.S. Army. I wish him, his wife Sheila, their two sons Sean and Ryan and their families continued success and happiness in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY KENNETH O. PRESTON

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my cochair of the Army Caucus, the junior Senator from Hawaii, Mr. DANIEL AKAKA, I congratulate Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States as the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston is retiring after 36 distinguished years of service.

Sergeant Major Preston is a native of Mount Savage, MD. He entered the Army as a cavalry scout in June 1975, and has served in every enlisted leadership position, including cavalry scout, platoon sergeant, and tank commander. He served as Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Armored Division, V Corps in Germany and the Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Baghdad, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was an instrumental leader during the invasion of Iraq.

In 1975, Sergeant Major Preston was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division, as they were transforming from an Air Cavalry Division to a Heavy Division. He spent his first years in the military as a scout, excelling on every vehicle from motorcycles to dune buggies, surpassing his peers and distinguishing himself as a superior leader. Two years later, Sergeant Major Preston was promoted to sergeant and moved to the 33rd Armor Regiment, 3rd Armor Division in Germany. His commanders again recognized his superior leadership skills and selected him first as a senior gunner and then as the commander of the battalion commanders tank. Throughout his command, his tank was consistently named top tank in the battalion.

Sergeant Major Preston took the knowledge and expertise he gained in

Germany to Fort Knox where he became a master gunner instructor. He excelled once again and was hand-picked for an exchange tour with the British Army as a tank instructor in Dorset, England. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston has served in every senior enlisted position in the Army, from platoon sergeant to command sergeant major. He held command sergeant major positions at 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division; then at 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, at 1st Armored Division, and finally at V Corps in Germany. Before becoming Sergeant Major of the Army, he was the command sergeant major for Combined Joint Task Force 7 serving in Baghdad, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His leadership and operational expertise were instrumental in planning and executing the attack on the forces of Saddam Hussein.

One of the most enduring contributions Sergeant Major Preston has made to our Nation was implementing the largest transformation of the Army's noncommissioned officer education system since the system was first developed. As the backbone of the Army, noncommissioned officers have specific education requirements throughout their career. The Advance and Senior Level Courses now are more in line with what our leaders need in Afghanistan and Iraq. With the roll out of Structured Self-Development, an on-line module system that will ensure our noncommissioned officers receive the best training, noncommissioned officers are better educated, which pays huge dividends on the battlefield. Also, with new distributed learning, the Army's first-line leaders are able to spend more time at home with their families while taking classes online.

Over the last 7 years, Sergeant Major of the Army Preston served as the Sergeant Major of the Army, the highest enlisted position attainable in the Army. He assumed this position during the first year of Operation Iraqi Freedom and proved himself a tremendous wartime leader, demonstrating unselfish devotion to our Nation and the soldiers. He worked tirelessly to restore balance to a force stretched and stressed by the demands of the longest war our Nation has ever known. His personal observations and advice helped guide Army leadership during the implementation of the most comprehensive transformation of the Army since World War II. The end result was building of the most versatile Army in the history of our Nation. Its modular units and improved capabilities enabled the Army to execute its strategy of full-spectrum operations. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston was instrumental in ensuring that this plan adhered to principles of commonsense and care for soldiers and their families. He worked with Army leadership to increase support to families by implementing the Army Family Covenant and the Army Community Covenant. These programs increased support for Army families by expanding and improving services while raising aware-

ness about the unique challenges military families face. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston testified numerous times before Congress on behalf of the 1.1 million soldiers and millions of family members under his care. His clear and passionate testimony resulted in increased compensation, improved housing, improved health services and an overall better quality of life.

The impact of Sergeant Major of the Army Preston's efforts will be felt and seen in our Army for decades to come. His untiring devotion to duty, his love for the Army and its soldiers and families, and his professionalism has left a legacy of trained and educated soldiers. When history looks back at the Army's 13th Sergeant Major of the Army, it will be clear that his personal leadership contributed to the building of the most professional Non-Commissioned Officer Corps the world has ever known. We wish him and his wife Karen continued success and happiness in all of their future endeavors.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 830. An act to rescind the unobligated funding for the FHA Refinance Program and to terminate the program.

H.R. 836. An act to rescind the unobligated funding for the Emergency Mortgage Relief Program, and to terminate the program.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 830. An act to rescind the unobligated funding for the FHA Refinance Program and to terminate the program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 836. An act to rescind the unobligated funding for the Emergency Mortgage Relief Program and to terminate the program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-868. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus thuringiensis eCry3.1Ab Protein in Corn; Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8866-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-869. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting pursuant to law, the 2010 Packers and Stockyards Program Annual Report; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-870. A communication from the Commissioners of the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Interim Report to Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-871. A communication from the Director, Pentagon Renovation and Construction Program Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for the year ending March 1, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-872. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Human Reliability Program: Identification of Reviewing Official" (RIN1992-AZ00) received in the office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-873. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Certification, Compliance, and Enforcement for Consumer Products and Commercial and Industrial Equipment" (RIN1904-AC23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-874. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Test Procedure for Microwave Ovens" (RIN1904-AB78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-875. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revisions to the Open Burning Regulations" (FRL No. 9278-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-876. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of One-Year Extension for Attaining the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard in the Baltimore Moderate Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9278-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-877. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,